

# MORE SITES SET ON SAFETY MANAGEMENT!

With over 140,000 people directly employed in Ireland's construction industry, CIF Director General Tom Parlon has asked construction companies to redouble their efforts to reduce accidents on site in a bid to improve safety management and awareness during 2017.

Construction companies have worked tirelessly with their industry partners to reduce workplace accidents and fatalities. The industry employs over 140,000 people directly and continues to strive to improve safety management and awareness in the sector," noted the CIF chief recently.

"Health and Safety Authority (HSA) statistics show that tragic accidents are much more likely to occur within the micro-enterprise and self-employed sectors of the industry. It is vital that we redouble our efforts to get the safety message to smaller companies and sole traders, to reduce accidents and always strive towards a zero-fatality industry."

According to DKM consultants, construction activity is anticipated to grow by nine per cent per year up to 2020. This growth will be driven by ambitious government targets in housebuilding and infrastructure development as well as commercial growth.

DKM estimates that 112,000 new jobs will be created by the sector by 2020 to deliver on these targets. This year, Construction Information Services estimates that almost €19 billion in construction projects will be completed.

## 'REFOCUS' AND 'REFLECT'

"With a strong increase in activity, there will be a subsequent need to expand the workforce and we expect a strong growth of new employees coming onsite, along with those returning to Ireland for work."

Parlon and the CIF are asking construction companies, particularly "smaller companies and the self-employed to refocus" on health and safety for 2017.

"Now is the time to reflect on our current health and safety procedures so you can be busy and safe. We must ensure that the industry maintains its strong record on the management and awareness of safety and health issues."

For decades, employers and workers within the construction industry have been investing time and money to drive improvements and ensure that all workers can work safely on construction projects in Ireland. Approximately 90,000 workers complete the Safe Pass Programme every year. However, progress and innovation are constant requirements



in an ever-evolving working environment.

"The safety and health of workers is paramount and many employers in the construction sector have been leading the field in this area for years. We point to last the 2016 NISO safety awards where construction companies demonstrated that they have safety regimes in place comparable with multinational companies in hi tech industry. However, we can never become complacent."

With the industry set to grow considerably over the next number of years, with that comes an increased risk, he acknowledged. "We encourage construction clients to reward those companies who invest in better health and safety performance, which should be to the fore when planning every project – regardless of size – and on workers' minds at all times."

## SUSTAINED SAFETY CAMPAIGN

This year, the CIF is rolling out, what its director general described as "a sustained campaign on safety to keep the message at the forefront of industry".

He said the Federation will continue to work with the HSA and its partners in the Construction Safety Partnership Advisory Committee to highlight safety during Construction Safety Week in late October.

The CIF's range of construction-related health and safety management training programmes and services are fully accredited by IOSH and QQI and designed to provide additional support to construction professionals, who need to be fully aware of their legal roles and responsibilities while on site. For more information visit [bit.ly/2o5O6FT](https://bit.ly/2o5O6FT)